

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**SB 247 - HB 445**

March 4, 2005

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires local education agencies (LEAs) to complete a body mass index (BMI-for-age) on every child enrolled within the school system within 90 days of the beginning of each school year. LEAs shall provide parents with a health report card along with basic educational information on what the results mean. The Department of Education shall provide the Governor's office and the Speakers of the Senate and House a report of the aggregate results of the BMI screenings by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$2,000,000**

**Increase Local Govt. Expenditures – Exceeds \$2,000,000\***

Assumptions:

- Implementation of such a program would include training individuals to collect this data, the purchase of equipment to measure BMI, the printing and dissemination of information/report card to parents, the development of a data collection/management information system, professional development, and additional staff within the Department of Education to provide coordination for this effort.
- Implementation of a program to include all students in the state public schools (approximately 900,000) is estimated to increase state expenditures in an amount exceeding \$2,000,000 and to increase local government expenditures in an amount exceeding \$2,000,000.
- The bill also encourages schools where aggregate data suggests that a disproportionate percentage of children are overweight to implement school-based nutrition and physical activity programs. It is assumed that topics such as healthy eating and the importance of physical activity are currently addressed to some extent in Lifetime Wellness, Health and Biology classes.

\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

James W. White, Executive Director

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